



The Express



Second Quarter

June 2017

Dates to Remember:

- 6/6 D Day
- 6/14 Flag Day
- 6/18 Father's Day
- 6/21 Summer Solstice
- 7/1 New Fiscal Year
- 7/4 Independence Day
- 7/23 Parents Day
- 8/19 Aviation Day
- 8/21 Senior Citizen Day

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Kids at Hope Presents the Real Stars of McFarland USA

The Yuma County Juvenile Court, along with its community partners in the Kids at Hope committee, put together another memorable youth forum on March 21, hosting nearly a thousand middle school students at the Mary E. Post Elementary School auditorium.

After brief introductions by Probation Supervisor Henry "Beau" Gonzalez, Director Tim Hardy and Kids at Hope CEO Rick Miller, the attendees were treated to an inspirational presentation by David and Danny Diaz, two of the subjects of the 2015 Disney sports drama McFarland USA.



David Diaz

The movie centered around a new coach in McFarland, California, a small agricultural town, who encouraged a group of students to become cross country champions in 1987. The movie also centered around the Diaz family.

The brothers talked about how their family values of

hard work and education, along with the support and encouragement of their coach, Jim White, helped to encourage them to become successful.



Danny Diaz

While three Diaz brothers were portrayed in the movie, White actually coached three other brothers and a sister, as well as a number of their children, over the years. Since that first title winning group, McFarland has taken a total of eight additional Cali-

fornia state championships.

Danny Diaz related that, while he was the slowest runner on his team, he was not fat, as he was portrayed in the movie. He also said that his mother was much more strict than she appeared on film. In fact, 25 years later, his mother still expects the entire extended family to gather at her home for breakfast every morning.

Since graduating from high school, all of the members of the Diaz family have gone on to higher education and successful careers. But, their roots are still in McFarland. David is a vice principal and Danny is the school counselor at McFarland.

This was truly an inspirational event for all of the students involved. And the Kids at Hope committee is already hard at work for next year's presentation.



Probation Head Offers Imperial County's Aid

From the August 22, 1953 issue of the Yuma Daily Sun

Promise of full support and assistance in establishing a juvenile probation officer in Yuma was given last night by Norman Luce, probation officer of Imperial County.

Speaking before the August meeting of the Yuma area Coordinating Council, Mr. Luce said that when Yuma selects its officer he can spend as long a training period as necessary in the Imperial County probation office.

Mr. Luce gave a few pointers on probation work to the 30 persons attending the Coordinating Council meeting at the Chamber of Commerce.

"Punishment has never proved effective in correcting crime," he told the audience. "We work with the individual in an attempt to cause him to realize the importance of his place in society."

"When a case comes before the judge, he does not have to follow the recommendation of the officer in the disposition of the case. The officer's recommendation is merely a guide to the judge."

"When you select your juvenile probation officer, be very careful. It is a good idea for him to be a university graduate, with a major in sociology and a minor in psychology, or vice versa. He needs to have a tender understanding for the people he deals with and their problems."

Mr. Luce said the budget for his office in El Centro is \$57,000. He has six deputies, including two women, to assist in the probation work.

"Don't think a probation officer would get by with a part-time secretary," he said. "The heavy work load of the office would be far too great for that. The secretary herself must do some probation work. While the officers are out of the office, she must handle cases that come in—at least as far as being able

VOICES FROM THE PAST

to understand the cases and answer questions intelligently.

"A probation officer can be a great saving to the community. He often saves offenders from continuing in crime, thus making them into good citizens. By stretching payment of a fine over a longer period of time, he also has contact with the person and can help each time another payment is made."

"Jailing a juvenile can be very, very bad for the youngster. What he actually needs is understanding. The juvenile officer would be this contact between the law and the courts for the youngster — someone he can turn to."

"There is no such thing as a juvenile problem; there are juveniles with problems."

Frank Wick, president of the Coordinating Council, told the audience that he had been informed that one or two applications had already been sent to Judge Henry C. Kelly for the probation officer job.

Yuma's Bob Araza Appointed to the State Pardons Parole Unit

From the January 27, 1975 issue of the Yuma Daily Sun

Robert L. Araza, chief probation officer of the Yuma County Probation Center, has been named to the Arizona Board of Pardons and Paroles.

In announcing the appointment today, Governor Raul Castro said of Araza, "I feel he is exceptionally well qualified. We are seeing ever increasing numbers of young people being sentenced to

prison. We need a person on the parole board who has experience in dealing with juveniles."

Although Araza has not yet met with the governor to discuss the nomination, he has known Castro since the early 1960's when the governor was a juvenile court judge.

A native of Imperial, Calif., Araza moved to Yuma with his family at the age of four and graduated from Yuma High School. He is the son of the late Isabelo (Bob)

and Faustina Araza and a leader in the Filipino community here.

Araza was employed in 1962 as a Yuma County deputy, serving as liaison officer chief to the juvenile court. He was then named chief juvenile probation officer and court referee in 1965.

A highlight of his career was the opening of the new juvenile court center on Avenue B. The facility was cited in a Law Enforcement Administration annual report as a model institution.

Another Round of Retirements Depletes the Ranks of the Juvenile Court

Over the past several months, the Juvenile Court has experienced another great talent drain, as three more outstanding employees have decided to enter into retirement, continuing a trend. While presenting quite a challenge, this is not a negative, as it demonstrates the kind of working environment that encourages people to continue working for twenty years or more in an extremely difficult and challenging field.

Pauline Villa

Pauline Gutierrez Villa began her career as a juvenile probation officer just out of college on August 1, 1994. She had completed a six month internship with probation as the last part of her degree in Criminal Justice from Northern Arizona University—Yuma.

Pauline held a number of positions during her early years with the department, including the school probation officer at Aztec High School and the newly created sex offender unit with intensive probation.

On May 10, 1999, Pauline was selected as a supervisor in the probation department, a position which she was to hold with distinction until her retirement.

Pauline had a reputation as a great grant writer, and it was not unusual for her to be assigned that task whenever there was a need for funds to implement a new and innovative program.

The highlight of her career was the development and implementation of the Juvenile Drug Court Program. This required a tremendous amount of work, from writing the grants, to developing the policies and procedures following the national guidelines, to putting together a team of professionals, including attorneys,

law enforcement and treatment providers.

The new Drug Court program held its first session on April 21, 2001. Pauline was the proved to be the mainstay of the program, while all the other team members came and went. At the time of her retirement, 275 children had successfully completed the program, with by far, the highest graduation rate in the State of Arizona.

Pauline recently completed a leadership course through the American Probation and Parole Association, which required a great deal of work on her part.

Pauline retired on October 25, 2016, in order to spend more time running her family's restaurant, El Charro. But, she did not leave the Juvenile Court completely, as she can still be found facilitating the Teen Law School program for standard probation and diversion.

Dawn Blake

Known for her ability to develop and present new programs and training classes, Dawn Blake began her career as a juvenile probation officer on October 4, 1993, having spend some time as a detention officer with Adult Detention Facility.

Dawn experienced nearly every facet of the probation department, including standard and intensive probation. She served as a court probation officer, school probation officer at Aztec High School, handled special mental health and sex offender caseloads and worked for awhile at the Hope Assessment Center.

Dawn was in on the ground floor of several innovative programs at the juvenile court, including parent ori-

entation and a life skills group for girls. She also was credited for naming the court's boot camp program—JAWS (Juvenile All Weekend Supervision).

In addition, Dawn was a training officer, primarily in defensive tactics. And, if you needed someone to give a presentation at a service club or for an agency, Dawn was the first to be called.

For the past several years, Dawn has been designated as a Probation Officer II, assuming some supervisory responsibilities and serving as a mentor for the newer probation staff.

Dawn officially retired on January 27, 2017. She received a formal send off at the employee recognition luncheon.

Dawn is now employed by the Mesa Police Department in Mesa, Arizona as a Crime Prevention Officer.

Vijay Mohindra

Vijay Mohindra began his career as a detention officer on June 3, 2003. He served in that capacity until his retirement on March 25, 2017.

Vijay was a successful businessman in his native India, before coming to the United States. At his retirement luncheon, he treated the staff of the juvenile court to the finest in Indian cuisine, making many of wish that he would come back so that he could retire again.

Vijay's plans for retirement involve traveling around the world. He made it clear that he has already visited 37 countries, and plans to make it an even 50 before he is done.



Juan Linarez is Recognized by the Optimist Club of Yuma

Already recognized as the juvenile court's Probation Officer of the Year for 2016, Juan Linarez was honored again on May 30 during a breakfast meeting of the Sunrise Optimist Club of Yuma.

The Optimists have been giving out awards each year since 1965 as part of their Respect for Law Day, a national observance sponsored by Optimist International to honor law enforcement officers and fire fighters.

The award is given for "exhibiting individual respect for law and for fulfilling personal obligations to fellow citizens and to the community," and is intended to inspire respect for the law among the youth.

Juan has been with the department for nearly 20 years and is currently assigned San Luis Pro-

bation Office as an intensive probation officer.

Juan has proven to be a quiet leader in the Kids at Hope practices at the Juvenile Court. He initiated and frequently leads staff in the recitation of the

Kids at Hope pledge in the hallway outside. He also incorporates that philosophy into his casework, ensuring that every youth with whom he works has a chance to succeed.

Juan will also be recognized in September at the Statewide Probation Awards and Recognition luncheon in Mesa, where he is our



Juan Linarez with Supervisor Henry Gonzalez

court's nominee for the Arizona State Line Officer of the Year.

Juan is a hard worker and his enthusiasm, perseverance and concern for helping the youth with whom he works makes him an outstanding example of what it means to be an employee of the Yuma County Juvenile Court.

Aging to Perfection

Yolanda Huerta	Jun 2
Ernesto Montes	Jun 3
Jolene Hefner	Jun 6
Lora DeLeon	Jun 12
Miguel Saldana	Jun 13
Billy Hochheimer	Jun 20
Hector Gonzalez	Jun 22
Johanna Calderon	Jun 23
Ranee Arviso	Jun 25
Lisa Luchtman	Jun 25
Alexis Urtuzuastegui	Jun 26
Steven Banuelos	Jun 28

Matt Fox	Jun 29
Juan Linarez	Jul 3
Alex Godinez	Jul 4
Edgar Torres	Jul 5
Gabriela Lachica	Jul 6
Ariel Acosta	Jul 10



Fred Muntinga	Jul 12
Suman Pangasa	Jul 14
Charlie Santa Cruz	Jul 20
David Sherman	Jul 27
Karen Hamby	Jul 30
Anet Solorzano	Aug 1
Edna Lugo	Aug 10
Alejandro Caballero	Aug 12
Debra Ullery	Aug 12
Kathleen Barron	Aug 14
Alexander Castillo	Aug 21
Yvonne Graf	Aug 21

Just the Facts - Did You Know That . . . ?

Did you know that the Juvenile Court has approximately 20 employees whose family members and/or relatives celebrated graduations in May of 2017?

The graduation celebrations ranged from kindergarten through college. Please join me in honoring the Juvenile Court family's 2017 graduating class.

- ◇ **Elizabeth Acosta:** *Aidan Acosta* (Son) graduated from kindergarten at Yuma Lutheran School
- ◇ **Imelda Arellano:** *Daniela Plata* (Niece) graduated from Fourth Avenue Junior High School; *Erick Arellano* (Nephew) graduated from middle school in Phoenix; *Isaac Godoy* (Nephew) graduated from Yuma High School; and *Abraham Plata* (Nephew) graduated from Kofa High School
- ◇ **Tori Bourguignon:** *Grady Bourguignon* (Son) graduated Cum Laude from the University of Arkansas-Little Rock with a Bachelor's Degree in Finance
- ◇ **Stephanie Buthmann:** *Madison Buthmann* (Daughter) graduated from Centennial Middle School and *Alexia Munoz* (Daughter) graduated from Cibola High School
- ◇ **Ignacio Galindo:** *Oscar Galindo* (Nephew) graduated from Kofa High School; *Paola Galindo DeAnda* (Niece) graduated from Arizona State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Speech Therapy; and *Jazmin Caro* (Niece) graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor's Degree in Physical Therapy

◇ **Ismael Garcia:** *Ariana Garcia* (Daughter) graduated from Pre-School Express

◇ **Belinda Gill:** *Jonathan Gill* (Son) graduated from Aztec High School

◇ **Karen Hamby:** *Taylor Van Why* (Niece) graduated from Gila Ridge High School

◇ **Patricia Hernandez:** *Andrew Hernandez* (Son) graduated from Cibola High School and enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.



◇ **Yolanda Huerta-Urbalejo:** *Gabriel Urbalejo* (Nephew) graduated from Cibola High School and *Savannah Urbalejo* (Niece) graduated from Arizona Western College with an Associate of Arts Degree

◇ **Gena Kramer:** *Tylar Nickelson* (Son) graduated from Arizona Western College with an Associate of Arts Degree in General Business

◇ **Gabriela Lachica:** Recognized her coworker, *Ismael Garcia*, who graduated from Northern Arizona University-Yuma with a Master of Education Degree in Human Relations

◇ **Johanna Lavarias:** *Aleia Lavarias* (Daughter) graduated from Kindergarten at Mesquite Elementary School

◇ **Maria Martinez:** *Diana Martinez* (Daughter) graduated from PPEP-Tec High School

◇ **Leo Mendez:** *Fernando Solano* (Nephew) graduated from Northern Arizona University-Yuma with a Master's Degree in Education

◇ **Nick Herrera:** *Elijah Herrera* (Son) moved on to second grade at Pueblo Elementary School

◇ **Mark Olin:** *Alexis Schmit* (Granddaughter) graduated from Yuma Catholic High School

◇ **Grant/Jennifer Rader:** *Ariana Rader* (Daughter) graduated from South Mountain Community College with an Associate of Arts Degree

◇ **Emmie Roman:** *Angela Marie "Angie" Roman* (Daughter) graduated from the University of Arizona with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Family and Consumer Science

◇ **Ben Rowe:** *Karina Cain* (Niece) graduated from Holy Cross College in South Bend, Indiana with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business; *Ryan Munoz* (Nephew) graduated from Arizona Western College with an Associate of Arts Degree and *Isabella Rowe* (Granddaughter) graduated from Kindergarten at Ventana Vista Elementary School in Tucson

◇ **Anita Salisbury:** *Langley Salisbury* (Daughter) graduated from Castle Dome Middle School



Juvenile Court Employees Participate in Torch Run for Special Olympics



Along with over 100 runners from various federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, 12 intrepid employees of the Yuma County Juvenile Court participated in the Arizona Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics on May 4.

Yuma was assigned the fifth leg of the relay, in which officers and athletes carried the torch, known as the "Flame of Hope," over a 22-mile course, starting at the border in San Luis, Arizona and ending at the Yuma Quartermaster Depot. Each agency covered a portion of that distance, walking, running and bicycling as far as they were able to go.



Following a reception at the Quartermaster Depot, the Flame of Hope continued on its way to Glendale, Arizona, where it was used to light the flame at the Special Olympics Arizona Summer Games, which were held at Raymond S. Kellis High School May 4-6.



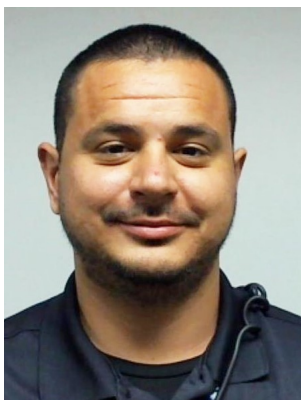
Each year, nearly 100,000 law enforcement officers from over 35 countries from around the globe participate in this event, which has raised more than \$500 million for Special Olympics since its inception in 1981.

Numbers That Matter

By: Maria Martinez

Probation Fees Collected				Restitution Collected			
	February	March	April	February	March	April	
Standard	\$ 4,414.00	\$ 5,147.00	\$ 4,568.00	\$ 6,781.28	\$ 1,804.16	\$ 1,900.00	
JIPS	\$ 3,010.00	\$ 3,335.00	\$ 1,455.00	\$ 97.58	\$ 1,504.42	\$ 744.41	
Diversion	\$ 1,610.00	\$ 1,856.00	\$ 1,754.50	\$ 44.43	\$ 7.50	\$ 7.50	
Collections	\$ 385.41	\$ 2,846.17	\$ 5,454.33	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,067.84	\$ 2,835.50	
Off Probation	\$ 1,305.00	\$ 1,319.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 1,319.19	\$ 1,460.00	\$ 1,197.84	
Total	\$10,724.41	\$14,503.17	\$13,631.83	\$8,242.48	\$5,949.96	\$6,685.25	

New Hires



Edgar Torres
Detention Officer I
January 9



Rebecca Ghiotto
Court Services Assistant I
January 17



Ernesto Montes
Detention Officer I
February 27



Alejandro Caballero
Dispatcher
March 27



Silvia Espinoza
Receptionist/Clerk
March 27

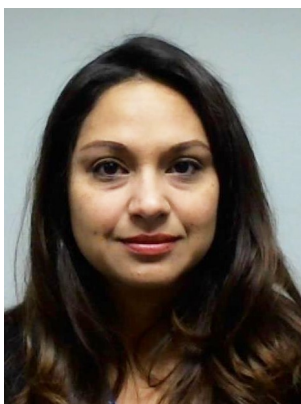


Anita Salisbury
Probation Supervisor
April 3



Gregory Rhodes
Dispatcher
May 8

Promotions / Transfers



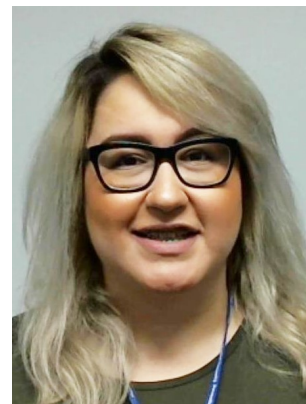
Maria Martinez
Collections Specialist I
December 19



Lisa Schaefer
Administrative Assistant
CASA Program
February 3



Christina Charles
Family Support Specialist
February 20



Stephanie Gonzalez
Court Services Assistant II
April 24

First Quarter Awards



Teresa Lopez

**Family Support Specialist
Employee of the Quarter**

A supervisor commented, "Teresa exemplifies the Kids at Hope philosophy in everything that she does, building trust and developing positive relationships with even the most guarded of juveniles to get them to begin planning for the future. She is skilled in motivational interviewing and has been able to make unbelievable breakthroughs in several difficult cases, when all other efforts had failed.

When the court was developing its Successful Futures life skills probation program by way of a committee, it was Teresa who helped to cobble together a dynamic curriculum based on the four destinations of Kids at Hope. She is also actively involved as a member of the Drug Court team

Besides working with each those teams, Teresa enthusiastically organizes and participates with youth and other staff in a variety of activities, including dressing up as a dinosaur on National Adoption Day.

As an ambassador of the Juvenile Court, Teresa is one of the best."



Alexander Castillo

**Detention Officer
of the Quarter**

A fellow employee commented, "This officer has been a pleasure to work with since the beginning. Castillo is always willing to learn and tries to gain experience from senior officers to constantly improve his job quality.

I have seen Castillo take the initiative to assist coworkers when he hears they need time off, have an upcoming event and need to change schedules or help in any way he can.

Castillo also brings a positive attitude to the units he is working and uses his ability to be a great treasure hunter by talking with the youth he works with to help them time travel and to think about the future. Castillo seems to genuinely care about those around him, which allows the youth to feel comfortable discussing their future with him.

Castillo always comes to work with a good attitude and always seems to go above and beyond any duty assigned to him".



Amy Fischer

**Probation Officer
of the Quarter**

A supervisor commented, " Amy Fischer has been with the department for nearly 19 years. After serving for nine years in the Drug Court program, Amy took over a standard probation caseload in East Yuma County, and has started working with the sex offender treatment team, supervising sex offenders while they are in residential treatment.

Amy is the backup probation officer for the new Successful Futures life skills-oriented standard probation program, also instructing in the Education and Career component.

Amy serves as evidence custodians for the department and has also helped to bring the fingerprinting program into compliance.

Amy can always be counted upon to do whatever is needed, without complaint, to keep the department running smoothly, including helping her fellow officers, when needed. I believe that this is what makes her an excellent candidate for the probation officer of the quarter".

The staff of The Blog is looking for your suggestions on ways to improve the content of the newsletter, as well as ideas for upcoming issues. If you have any ideas or would like to submit a story, contact Leo Mendez at lmendez@courts.az.gov or Ben Rowe at browe@courts.az.gov, or any member of the newsletter committee.

